



CABINET

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To: Councillors Bailey, Baines, Barkley (Deputy Leader), Bokor, Harper-Davies, Mercer, Morgan (Leader), Poland, Rattray and Rollings (for attention)

All other members of the Council
(for information)

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Cabinet to be held in Committee Room 1, at the Council Offices, Southfields, Loughborough on Thursday, 9th March 2023 at 6.00 pm for the following business.

Chief Executive

Southfields
Loughborough

24th February 2023

SCRUTINY COMMISSION REPORTS

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|-----|--|-------|
| 9. | <u>LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME</u> | 3 - 4 |
| | A report of the Head of Planning and Growth. | |
| | <i>Key Decision</i> | |
| 10. | <u>CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN 2023-24</u> | 5 - 7 |
| | A report of the Chief Executive. | |

Key Decision

11. EZ FORWARD FUNDING REQUEST - CHARNWOOD CAMPUS BUILDING B28E 8 - 10

A report of the Director Finance, Governance and Contracts.

Key Decision

CABINET – 9TH MARCH 2023

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

CHARNWOOD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2023

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Charnwood Local Development Scheme 2023.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Head of Planning and Growth.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. Late approval of the Local Development Scheme would mean that the existing programme would become out of date. The Local Plan Inspectors had asked that the Local Development Scheme be updated so it was clear when they made their report what the up to date forward programme for plan production was.
- ii. The timetable milestones for progressing new Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) were outlined on page 61 of the agenda. There was scope for members and community forums to participate in a consultation process during the development of the SPDs.
- iii. The council had a biodiversity policy document which provided guidance on securing biodiversity net gain on development sites and financial contributions towards off-site biodiversity net gain using S106 legal agreements.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Paper:	Scrutiny Commission Minute 99 2022/23, 7th March 2023.
Officer to Contact:	Sally Watson Democratic Services Officer (01509) 634969 Sally.watson@charnwood.gov.uk

CABINET – 9TH MARCH 2023

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN 2023-24

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2023-24.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Chief Executive.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. The section regarding Covid-19 had been removed from the Corporate Delivery Plan for 2023-24. This was due to the council resuming business as usual following the pandemic. There were mechanisms in place in the event that Covid-19 action plans would need to be reinstated, including linking in with the Leicestershire Resilience Forum and other local partnerships.
- ii. The action relating to the installation of six dual electric charging points in the Beehive Lane Car Park, and three in the Charnwood Borough Council car park was related to other strategies such as the Climate Action Plan and the further work of the Climate Action Board.
- iii. The previous Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Reduction Strategy was to be reviewed and updated to reflect the requirements of the Borough in 2023-24.
- iv. The Housing Development, Acquisitions and Disposals of Stock Strategy would be developed following the recent Stock Conditions Survey. This would consider the best and worst performing stock and would look at opportunities to develop stock, dispose of stock and acquire stock.
- v. The development of a Garage Site Asset Management Strategy was planned following a recent review of garage sites. This would consider options for garage sites which were not utilised effectively .
- vi. The Council had recently purchased a number of overt CCTV cameras for use at fly-tipping hot spots. These were designed to deter fly-tipping and would be

used to gather evidence in the event of fly-tipping incidents. There was also work ongoing across Leicestershire with District Councils which linked in with this initiative and it was anticipated that further targeted action would take place in the coming months.

- vii. There was a review of the Lightbulb Service across the partnership planned, which would include Leicestershire County Council and District Councils. Charnwood Borough Council would also undertake a separate review on the service to consider options for delivery.
- viii. A typo was highlighted on page 15 of the agenda, under the 'Sustainability' section of the report. The report stated that there was an object to 'take action to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2040' and it was confirmed that the date should read '2030'.
- ix. It was highlighted the programme of acts at Loughborough Town Hall did include a variety of different types of performances, including commercial and cultural acts, and this was based upon the success of previous acts and the availability of acts to perform at the Loughborough Town Hall. The Chief Executive agreed to circulate the current programme to members in order to demonstrate the variety of acts.
- x. Targets within the Corporate Delivery Plan were realistic and stretched, which meant that if a particular target was consistently achieved, there was potential to stretch this target further to achieve greater improvements. The Transformation and Improvement Manager agreed to share historical data on KI 4(a) 'Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting', to demonstrate the 50% stretch target.
- xi. Planning applications determined to an agreed timescale referred to a timescale which had been agreed with the applicant. Further statutory consultation was required if an applicant sought to amend an application, and this would lead to a requirement of an extension of time. Data for January 2023 suggested that 100% major applications, 94% of minor applications and 67% other applications required an extension of time in that month.
- xii. The targets for LS10(a) 'Leisure Centres – total number of visits' were based on previous years of data and it was anticipated that the spike in visits during Quarter 4 could be due to an increase in visits to leisure centres during the New Year period.
- xiii. The 'Discover Charnwood' communications would be aimed at Charnwood residents as well as audiences from across the County and wider areas. Some attractions across Charnwood may not be familiar to some residents from within the Borough, and neighbouring districts.
- xiv. The targets for KI6 'Percentage rent collected (including arrears brought forward) was a cumulative target and it was expected that the increase over each quarter was due to the collections of rent that was owed for previous

quarters. The Chief Executive agreed to confirm if this was the case following the meeting.

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CABINET – 9TH MARCH 2023

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

CHARNWOOD ENTERPRIZE ZONE – REQUEST FOR FORWARD FUNDING (BUILDING 28E)

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Charnwood Enterprise Zone – Request for Forward Funding (Building 28E).

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Director of Finance, Governance and Contracts.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. Members felt that Enterprise Zone was beneficial to the Borough in that it provided significant employment opportunities and encouraged the retainment of University graduates in the area.
- ii. There was potential to utilise pre-existing business rates generated by the Charnwood Campus site to support the repayment of the loan if this was necessary. The Enterprise Zone would continue for the next 18 years and the loan repayment term was anticipated to be 15 years. It was projected that the loan would be repaid comfortably, during this time, although there was an additional three years following the anticipated repayment term, which could be used to claim further payments if required.
- iii. It was expected that the revenue projections for the entire site would be £1.3m pa. The overarching business rates agreement was that 85% of the business rates collected would be collected by the LLEP (Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership). The loan and repayment scheme would allow the Council to withhold some of these business rates in order to facilitate repayment of the loan.
- iv. The building had been unoccupied for some time and required some refurbishment and upgrading of equipment.

- v. A Heads of Terms agreement had been signed by prospective tenants which suggested there was little risk in the building not being let.
- vi. Although the total amount of the loan was expected to be £4.6m, the corresponding figure in the report was £5m. This allowed for some headroom in negotiating the final amount. The Director of Finance, Governance and Contracts (S151) agreed to send a spreadsheet detailing the costings to Councillor Brookes.
- vii. The Council had lobbied for the establishment of the Enterprise Zone over a number of years, which was based over three locations in Leicester and Charnwood and had taken a significant amount of time and effort to progress.

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